

9 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Support

**SUBJECT: Request for Space Allocation to Provide for
a Related Activities Center (RAC) under
the DCI/VAS**

1. During the past year the Director's Vietnamese Affairs Staff (VAS) has handled and retained an ever-increasing amount of all-source information, not only on Vietnam but also on activities in Cambodia, Laos, South China and Thailand, which bear on the Vietnamese struggle. As you are aware, one of the responsibilities we have acquired is that of maintaining the DCI Data Book, a compendium of current information established so that senior officers of this Agency needing current facts and figures on any aspect of the Vietnam struggle (e. g. , to reply to Congressional or other high level inquiries) could obtain any data needed in one place. It has become increasingly obvious, however, that files and notebooks alone are not adequate as conceptual or presentational devices to give anyone a clear picture of the total Vietnam situation in all its complex aspects. It has also become increasingly obvious that there is a real need for some mechanism for projecting this total picture, both to support and assist the analytic and line production components of the Agency concerned with Vietnam and as a management tool for those components with Vietnam-related operational responsibilities.
2. After a good deal of thought and a review of various possible solutions to what has become an increasingly critical problem, I feel that the Director's and the Agency's needs would be served best by the establishment of a physical facility (to be called the Related Activities Center) which would display graphically by maps, charts, graphs, and other means a comprehensive, current projection of the total situation in Vietnam and adjacent areas -- i. e. , a total picture of all activities impinging on the Vietnam

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war. This facility, manned primarily by VAS personnel, would enable us to take the staggering amount of information and intelligence flowing into the Agency, reduce it to meaningful, correlated, and collated form, and display it in a manner all Agency components concerned with Vietnam could use.

3. The establishment of the RAC has been discussed with the elements of the DDP, DDI and DDS&T immediately concerned with Vietnam. Though our proposal has not been formally coordinated and approved by all levels of these three directorates, we have found general support for the project and a general working-level belief that the RAC would be something complementary to present activity on Vietnam rather than any form of competition or additional bureaucratic layering. We do not envisage VAS/RAC as an additional production office or command center, but as an analytic and management tool that all line components concerned with Vietnam could and would use in the execution of their respective responsibilities.

4. The ideal location for the RAC exists now in the form of one of the OSI/DDS&T conference rooms adjacent to the DCI/VAS offices (room number 6F25 - sketch attached). This room easily could be made SI secure by sealing the corridor entrances, access would be possible only through the VAS main office. For the last few months, we have studied our space needs carefully and even with the maximum degree of compression by use of sliding panels, fold-outs, va-graphs, etc., the specific space requested (Room Number 6F25) is the minimum needed to establish an effective center. This particular space has the additional advantage of being immediately adjacent to our offices and immediately below the CIA Operations Center, with which the RAC will have to maintain close and constant liaison. It is requested, therefore, that steps be taken to assign this space to the O/DCI/VAS from the OSI/DDS&T.

5. Mr. Duckett is aware of our request for this room and recognizes its desirability in terms of our needs and requirements. He also has a requirement for conference space, however, which is presently being met by the room in question. Thus, his endorsement of the RAC concept should not be construed as DDS&T endorsement of our request for this particular space. What we have is a space problem which we hope can be resolved in the best interests of the Agency and to the mutual satisfaction of all parties concerned.

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6. I would appreciate a reply to this request as early as possible since, even with the space in hand, the renovation of the facility would take some time, while the need becomes increasingly urgent.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

cc: A/DDS&T w/o att
A/DDI w/o att
DDP w/o att

25X1 O/DCI/SAVA GACarver/lkp:mee
Orig & 1 - Addressee w/att
1@ - cc's w/o att
1 - Admin - Building and Grounds file w/o att
1 - VAS Chrono w/o att
1 - GAC Chrono w/o att ✓

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